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68. (New) The method of claim 67 wherein the cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is MK-966 (Merck & Co.).

REMARKS

In order to maintain a clear line of demarcation between this application and applicants' co-pending application, S.N. 09/946,623,¹ and avoid a "double patenting" rejection in that case, claims directed to the use of lipid lowering drugs in combination with COX-2 inhibitors (new claims 40-68) have been moved from the noted co-pending case and added into the subject application. No new matter has been added to the application.

The pending claims remain directed to a combination therapy invention (method and related pharmaceutical composition) described by the pending application. Based on an earlier interview, amended claims directed specifically to methods and compositions wherein the COX-2 inhibitor, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, is used in combination with a lipid lowering drug were previously presented in Amendment B. Use of the COX-2 inhibitor and a statin has been specifically claimed. This amendment merely presents the remaining claims directed to the same subject matter that were previously pending in applicants' co-pending application, S.N. 09/946,623.

As with the previously pending claims, the new combination therapy claims are supported, *inter alia*, by the disclosure beginning in the first full paragraph on page 29 and continuing over to the top of page 30. As described, a particular aspect of the invention described in the subject application is the treatment of cardiovascular disorders by a combination therapy in which a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor (COX-2 inhibitor) is used in combination with an agent selected from the group consisting of (1) a lipid lowering drug, (2) an anti-oxidant, (3) a IIbIIa antagonist, (4) an aldosterone inhibitor, (5) an All antagonist, (6) a β -blocker, (7) aspirin, (8) a loop diuretic and (9) an ace inhibitor.

¹ The '623 application is a continuation application of the subject application.

Based on this disclosure (and consistent with the division of subject matter between the pending case and applicants' co-pending application, S.N. 09/946,623), the new claims are specifically directed to methods and compositions wherein the COX-2 inhibitor, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, is used in combination with a lipid lowering drug, such as (a) an IBAT inhibitor, (b) a fibrate, (c) niacin, (e) a statin, (f) a CETP inhibitor and (g) a bile acid sequestrant. Use of the COX-2 inhibitor and a statin also is specifically claimed.

Prompt consideration and full allowance of the claims pending in the subject application are respectfully requested.

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